लिए इस शर्त पर तैयार है कि भारत सरकार यह प्रमाणित करे कि स्व० श्यामजी वर्मा को कोई सगा-संबंधी इस समय जीवित नहीं है। यदि उनका कोई सगा-संबंधी जीवित है, तो ऐसा अनुरोध उससे प्राप्त होना चाहिए। स्विस प्राधिकारी यह भी जानना चाहते हैं कि भारत सरकार किस प्रयोजन से अस्थियां भारत लाना चाहती है। मंत्रालय गुजरात की सरकार के साथ संपर्क में है ताकि श्री श्यामजी कृष्ण वर्मा के सगे-संबंधी के संबंध में वस्तु स्थिति का पता लगाया जा सके। गुजरात की सरकार से इस संबंध में उत्तर प्राप्त होना है।

Indian Nationals in SAARC Countries' Jails

7102. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the issue of our nationals being kept in illegal custody by SAARC countries was taken up at the appropriate level by Government in the past at any of SAARC conferences/ meetings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would see that all nationals of other countries kept in our custody, are released unilaterally after certain period to facilitate release of our nationals being kept illegally by SAARC nations; and

(d) if not, what steps arc being taken to get the aged, sick and others released from the jails of SAARC nations immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) No. Sir. The issue of our nationals being kept in illegal custody in SAARC countries jails was not taken up by the Government in the past at any SAARC Conferences or Meetings because it does fall within the agreed areas of cooperation as it is primarily an issue of bilateral nature.

(c) Such a proposal is not under consideration of the Government.

(d) The question of early release and repatriation of all Indian prisoners under detention in Pakistan had repeatedly been taken up with the Government of Pakistan. Our efforts continue.

Misuse of funds on receptions by MEA

7103. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of External Affairs holds most of its receptions in hotels and not in the Hyderabad House;

(b) whether the consumption of whiskey in these parties is shown as over 22 pegs per guest;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this scale of consumption is not possible, if so, whether there is large scale leakageof funds under this head; and

(d) if so, what action Government contemplate to plug this loophole?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Ministry of External Affairs holds receptions at Hyderabad House and in hotels in Delhi depending upon the specific requirement of particular occasions. In general, receptions hosted by Ministers and Foreign Secretary arc held at Hyderabad House. In 1994, a total of 87 functions were arranged by the Ministry of External Affairs at Hyderabad House.

(b) As per specific need of the occasion, alcohol is served at receptions hosted by officials of the Ministry of External Affairs. However, the consumption of whiskey varies from function to function and has not been shown as over 22 pegs per guest.

(c) and (d) It is the constant endeavour of the Government to monitor and control expenditure on official engagements and this practice will continue.

Opening of New Diplomatic Missions Abroad

7104. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the countries in which the country's diplomatic missions have been set up;

(b) whether Government have a proposal to open new missions abroad;